

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/863,935

Examiner

James S. Wozniak

Applicant(s)

AKTAS ET AL.

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the request for continued examination from 3/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 7-11, 15 and 16 (now 1-10).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the office action from 3/1/2006, the applicant has submitted a request for continued examination, filed 3/16/2006, amending claims 1, 7, 9, and 15, while arguing to traverse the art rejection based on the amended claim limitations (*Amendment, Page 5-6*). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15-16 are allowable over the prior art of record for the below noted reasons for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1-3, 7-11, and 15-16** are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to **Claims 1, 7, 9, and 15**, the prior art of record fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest a multimedia mailbox system and associated management method that utilizes a single mailbox store for storing multimedia messages and a plurality of multimedia message data format converters for converting text to speech, speech to text and fax to text when a message is determined to be urgent based on sender information and message priority, wherein message conversion is based upon user definable parameters including sender information, message priority and summarization rules, and wherein the summarization rules are utilized to remove

message words that are not found in one of a plurality of keyword lists, which are created by a user through keyword selection and each assigned to a specific sender. Also, the prior art of record fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest the aforementioned features in combination with the ability to linguistically search for related messages of different data formats.

Although the combination of Tullis et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,802,314*), Takahashi et al (*U.S. Patent: 6,442,589*), and Grefenstette (*U.S. Patent: 6,289,304*) teaches a multimedia mailbox capable of urgent message conversion that utilizes user-defined summarization rules (*final office action from 12/20/2005, pages 2-4*), none of the cited prior art either individually or in combination, explicitly teaches or fairly suggest the summarization rules that reduce a message to only a list of acceptable keywords from a plurality of keyword lists which are created by a user through keyword selection and each assigned to a specific sender.

Other related prior art:

Horvitz et al (*U.S. Patent Publication: 2003/0046421 A1*) teaches a means for generating an automated summary of a message using user-defined and priority-based summary levels (*Paragraph [0279]*). Horvitz, however, does not explicitly teach or fairly suggest that a user can create a list of selected keywords, specific to each sender, to define summarization rules. Instead, Horvitz relies on keywords merely to determine message criticality (*Paragraph [0219]*). Horvitz also fails to teach a plurality of multimedia message converters, only teaching a single speech-to-text converter (*Paragraph [0064]*).

Thus, claims 1, 7, 9, and 15 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-3, 8, 10-11, and 16 further limit allowable independent claims, and thus, are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Davies et al (*U.S. Patent: 5,931,907*)- teaches a means for a user to select a list of summary keywords for a web page summary in a client-server interaction, but does not teach the ability of a user to create a plurality of keyword lists each corresponding to specific senders, nor implementation in a user messaging system.

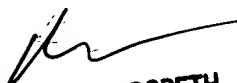
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7632. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00, F, 7:30-4, Off Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached at (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James S. Wozniak
5/1/2006



DAVID HUDSPETH
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